

**Massachusetts NRCS  
Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP)  
Planning Guide**

Landowner(s): \_\_\_\_\_

NRCS Planner: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

	Yes	No
<b>1) Does the site have an agricultural history (food or fiber)?</b>		
<b>2) If no, site is generally ineligible.</b>		
<b>3) Is the land currently enrolled in another NRCS or state program?</b> • If yes, existing NRCS contract must be canceled; need details from owner on state program.		
<b>4) Has the applicant owned the property for more than 7 years (per the deed)?</b> • If no, site is ineligible unless waiver granted by STC or chief. Landowner must submit waiver request letter to STC.		
<b>5) Is the area proposed for WRP comprised of more than one parcel of land with different owners?</b> • If yes, multiple applications will be necessary.		
<b>6) Are there any utility right of ways on the land being offered for WRP?</b> • If yes, note location on plan map and get additional information from landowner. Re-align WRP easement boundary accordingly if utility rows will impact ability to do wetland restoration.		
<b>7) Is the land currently enrolled in a conservation easement, conservation restriction, etc?</b> • If yes, get further information (copy of conservation restriction language, etc.) from landowner. If site is enrolled in APR, site is not eligible for WRP. If site has other restrictions, eligibility must be determined by state office.		
<b>8) Is the land currently enrolled in CH 61A?</b> • If yes, inform landowner that site will need to be removed from 61A prior to closing, which might require payment of back taxes.		
<b>9) Are there any buildings or structures located on the land being offered for WRP?</b> • If yes, determine if they pose contamination issues that would impact our decision to pursue easement acquisition. Inform landowner that structures and buildings will need to be removed prior to closing, at the landowner's expense.		
<b>10) Are there any junk piles, old equipment, etc. within the proposed WRP easement area?</b> • If yes, determine if they pose contamination issues that would impact our decision to pursue easement acquisition. Inform landowner that these will need to be cleaned up at the landowner's expense, prior to closing.		
<b>11) Does the landowner have access concerns/desires for acres not offered for WRP enrollment?</b> • If yes, plan WRP easement boundary to ensure landowner has access to off easement acres. If access issues will lead to complicated WRP easement boundary, decision to move forward on application must be determined by State Office.		
<b>12) Has the wetland hydrology been altered or degraded?</b> • If no, site is generally ineligible.		
<b>13) Are functioning ditches or drainage tiles present?</b> • If yes, are there conditions that would prevent plugging of ditches (e.g., ditches provide drainage for adjacent properties not enrolled in WRP, etc.) Document conditions and consult with State Office to determine application eligibility.		
<b>14) Are restrictions to the natural water regime present (e.g., berms, dikes, raised roads, etc)?</b> • If yes, are there conditions that would prevent the removal of these structures? Can wetland hydrology be restored in light of these conditions? Document conditions and consult with State Office to determine application eligibility.		
<b>15) Are there any other conditions that would prevent or restrict wetland restoration?</b> • If yes, document conditions and consult with State Office to determine application eligibility.		